

CLAIMS

1. A method of producing a frangible fiberglass insulation batt,
the method of comprising the steps of
passing a fiberglass insulation blanket through a cutter to cut the
5 fiberglass insulation blank along a cut line to form two side-by-side separate strips
separated by a gap, a first of the strips having a longitudinally extending side edge
extending along the cut line, a second of the strips having a longitudinally extending
side edge extending along the cut line and opposing the longitudinally extending side
edge of the first of the strips to define the gap,
10 applying an adhesive material to at least one of the opposing
longitudinally extending side edges, and
joining the opposing longitudinally extending side edges together to
cause the adhesive material to establish a frangible adhesive bridge spanning the gap
between the opposing longitudinally extending side edges to produce a frangible
15 fiberglass insulation batt.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the applying step includes the
steps of separating the first of the strips from the second of the strips along the cut line
to establish a widened gap therebetween bounded by the opposing longitudinally
extending side edges and dispensing the adhesive material into that widened gap to
20 contact at least one of the opposing longitudinally extending side edges.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the dispensing steps includes
the steps of locating a discharge nozzle in the widened gap and operating the
discharge nozzle to discharge the adhesive material onto at least one of the opposing
longitudinally extending side edges.
- 25 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the passing step includes the
step of moving the fiberglass insulation blanket on a conveyor underlying the
fiberglass insulation blanket and the separating step includes the step of locating a
strip separator in a downstream position relative to the cutter to intercept the
fiberglass insulation blanket at the cut line as the fiberglass insulation blanket moves
30 on the conveyor in a downstream direction.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the applying step includes the
step of moving the longitudinally extending side edge of the first of the strips away

from the longitudinally extending side edge of the second of the strips to establish a widened gap therebetween and introducing adhesive material into the widened gap to contact at least one of the opposing longitudinally extending side edges.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the joining step includes the
5 step of transporting a downstream portion of the fiberglass insulation blanket comprising the two side-by-side separate strips through a channel defined by two spaced-apart barriers to compress the fiberglass insulation blanket to cause the first and second of the strips to move toward one another to trap adhesive material introduced into the widened gap between the opposing longitudinally extending side
10 edges to establish the frangible adhesive bridge.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein each spaced-apart barrier includes an upright axle and an edge roller mounted for rotation on the upright axle and arranged to engage an exterior edge of the fiberglass insulation blanket.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the joining step includes the
15 step of discharging a first stream of pressurized gas to impact a first exterior edge of the fiberglass insulation blanket and a second stream of pressurized gas to impact a second exterior edge of the fiberglass insulation blanket to cause the first and the second of the strips to move toward one another to trap the adhesive material introduced into the widened gap between the opposing longitudinally extending side
20 edges to establish the frangible adhesive bridge.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the joining step includes the step of discharging a first stream of pressurized gas to impact a first exterior edge of the fiberglass insulation blanket and a second stream of pressurized gas to impact a second exterior edge of the fiberglass insulation blanket.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the joining step includes the
25 step of transporting a downstream portion of the fiberglass insulation blanket comprising the two side-by-side separate strips through a channel defined by two spaced-apart barriers to compress the fiberglass insulation blanket to cause the first and second of the strips to move toward one another between the opposing
30 longitudinally extending side edges to establish the frangible adhesive bridge.

11. A method of producing a frangible fiberglass insulation batt, the method of comprising the steps of

passing a stream of fiberglass insulation through a cutter to form two side-by-side fiberglass strips separated by a gap and then

5 moving the two side-by-side fiberglass strips through an adhesive applicator to establish a frangible adhesive bridge spanning the gap between the two side-by-side fiberglass strips to retain the two side-by-side fiberglass strips in fixed relation to one another.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the moving step includes the
10 steps of exposing a longitudinally extending side edge of each fiberglass strip and dispensing an adhesive material to contact at least one of the longitudinally extending side edges.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the dispensing step includes
15 the steps of locating a discharge nozzle to communicate with the longitudinally extending side edges exposed during the exposing step and using the discharge nozzle to discharge an adhesive material onto at least one of the longitudinally extending side edges.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the moving step further
20 includes the step of compressing a downstream portion of the fiberglass insulation blanket located in a downstream position relative to the discharge nozzle to cause the two strips to move toward one another to trap adhesive material discharged onto at least one of the longitudinally extending side edges between the two strips to establish the frangible adhesive bridge.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the compressing step includes
25 the step of applying a first stream of pressurized gas to a first longitudinally extending exterior side edge of the downstream portion of the fiberglass insulation blanket to move a first of the fiberglass strips in a first direction toward a second of the fiberglass strips and applying a second stream of pressurized gas to a second
30 longitudinally extending side edge of the downstream portion of the fiberglass insulation blanket to move the second of the fiberglass strips in a second direction toward the first of the fiberglass strips.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the moving step further includes the step of transporting a downstream portion of the fiberglass insulation blanket located in a downstream position relative to the discharge nozzle through a channel defined by two spaced-apart barriers to trap adhesive material discharged onto at least one of the longitudinally extending side edges between the two strips to establish the frangible adhesive bridge.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein each spaced-apart barrier includes an upright axle and an edge roller mounted for rotation on the axle and arranged to engage an exterior edge of the downstream portion of the fiberglass insulation blanket.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein the moving step includes the step of dispensing an adhesive material into the gap formed between the two fiberglass strips along a cut line established by the cutter to contact at least one of the two fiberglass strips.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the moving step further includes the step of using a strip separator located along the cut line to move the two fiberglass strips apart from one another to widen the gap formed between the two fiberglass strips upon movement of the fiberglass insulation blanket on a conveyor in a downstream direction relative to the strip separator and wherein the dispensing step is carried out after the using step to cause the adhesive material to be dispensed into the gap after the gap has been widened during the using step.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the dispensing step includes the steps of locating a discharge nozzle in the gap widened during the using step and operating the discharge nozzle to discharge the adhesive material onto at least one of the two strips.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the moving step further includes the step of compressing a downstream portion of the fiberglass insulation blanket comprising the two side-by-side fiberglass strips to cause the two fiberglass strips to move toward one another to trap adhesive material dispensed into the gap formed between the two fiberglass strips to establish the frangible adhesive bridge.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the compressing step includes the step of applying a first stream of pressurized gas to a first exterior side edge of the fiberglass insulation blanket to move a first of the fiberglass strips in a first direction and applying a second stream of pressurized gas to a second exterior side edge of the fiberglass insulation blanket to move the second of the fiberglass strips in a second direction toward the first of the fiberglass strips.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the compressing step includes the step of transporting the downstream portion of the fiberglass insulation blanket through a channel defined by two spaced-apart barriers to trap adhesive material dispensed into the gap formed between the two fiberglass strips to establish the frangible adhesive bridge.

24. A method of producing a frangible fiberglass insulation batt, the method comprising, in series, the steps of passing a fiberglass insulation blanket through a cutter to cut the fiberglass insulation blanket along a cut line to form two side-by-side fiberglass strips separated by a gap,

urging a first of the fiberglass strips to move away from a second of the fiberglass strips to widen a gap formed along the cut line between the two side-by-side fiberglass strips,

discharging an adhesive material into the gap widened during the urging step to contact a side edge of at least one of the two side-by-side fiberglass strips, and

urging the fiberglass strips to move toward one another to trap the adhesive material therebetween to establish a frangible adhesive bridge interconnecting the side edges of the fiberglass strips.

25. A frangible fiberglass insulation batt comprising a pair of fiberglass insulation strips arranged to lie in side-by-side relation to one another and

a frangible adhesive bridge spanning a gap located between the pair of fiberglass insulation strips to produce a frangible bond retaining the fiberglass insulation strips in side-by-side relation.